

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

RÖNTGEN-RAY DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY. By CARL BECK, M.D.
New York and London: D. Appleton & Co., 1904.

The author's aim in preparing this work has been to demonstrate how the Röntgen rays can best be utilized in medical and surgical practice.

The great importance of using a compression diaphragm in the production of good skiagraphs is emphasized. The diaphragm used by Dr. Beck is simple and practical, and by its aid it is possible to bring out structural details on a plate much more clearly than without it.

The author has added much to our knowledge of the usefulness of the rays in the diagnosis of biliary and renal calculi. A careful study of his results demonstrates more clearly than ever the necessity of using the very best coil and tubes if one expects to accomplish anything in this branch of the work. The characteristics of a reliable renal skiagraph, the author states, are that it shows the outlines of the psoas muscle, and the lower ribs, and the structure of the transverse processes. If they show distinctly, a calculus which is not smaller than a pea would necessarily also leave its shadow on the plate.

The chapters on Fractures and the Operative Treatment of Deformed Fracture as indicated by the Röntgen rays are especially valuable.

The illustrations throughout the book are most excellent and are well chosen. The work itself is very practical in that the subject has been treated from a strictly clinical point of view.

PAUL MONROE PILCHER.

PROGRESSIVE MEDICINE. Edited by HOBART AMORY HARE, M.D.
Vol. VI, No. 1. March 1, 1904. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers
& Co.

This volume contains chapters on the surgery of the head, neck, and thorax; on infectious diseases; on diseases of children; on laryngology and rhinology; on otology; and an index. All of these chapters contain articles on surgical matters.

The article on cerebral pressure analyzes the recent experiences of Kocher, Cushing, and other writers on this subject in the light of the author's own experience. The relation of cerebral pressure to the general systemic blood-pressure is receiving the attention which so important a subject merits. Kocher's four stages of intracranial pressure are clearly defined. The idea of bleeding as a therapeutic measure in cases of intracranial hæmorrhage with high-bounding pulse is purely a symptomatic one, based on the mistaken judgment that the high tension is the cause, when it really is the result of the hæmorrhage. Recent studies have shown that the high blood-pressure serves the salutary purpose of overcoming the anæmia of the bulbar centres, and preventing death from paralysis of the heart and respiration. Every surgeon should be familiar with these observations upon the effects of traumatism and hæmorrhage of the brain in their relation to blood-pressure.

Some consideration is given to the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia by the injection of osmic acid into the substance of the nerve. There is also an interesting discussion of the most recent contributions on the subject of tumors of the cerebellum.

Some idea of the value of the surgical treatment of epilepsy may be gathered from the results in thirty-three cases operated upon and reported by Spratling. These cases have been carefully followed and the results tabulated.

The subject of malignancy of the lip and tongue is discussed in the light of a large number of contributions which have recently come from English sources. One may carry away from this the

impression that the best operations are the most simple. The fancy and complicated plastic operations, preferred for cosmetic considerations, divert the operator from the main issue. Cheate's article, calling attention to the relation between nerve distribution and carcinoma of the face, shows the relation between this disease and the trophic centres. The treatment of chronic facial paralysis by nerve anastomosis is fully discussed. This is one of the most important of the fields of modern surgery, and presents help to a large class of cases.

Tetanus is fully discussed in connection with recent literature. The use of gelatin injections as a cause of the disease and its relation to the blank cartridge are presented. The value of carbolic acid injections is exploited.

This volume is rich in surgical material. From the point of view of authoritativeness, completeness, adaptation to practical needs, good literary style, and availability for reference, the work fills a need and does great credit to all who have had a hand in its making.

JAMES P. WARBASSE.